IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus for managing software licenses of different software products, the apparatus comprising:

a managing unit managing a number of software licenses, for the different software products, owned by an organization;

a collecting unit collecting inventory information from each of a plurality of computers within the organization, inventory information of a computer comprising an inventory regarding software actually installed nonvolatiley in the corresponding computer, where the inventory information of each computer is generated by scanning the computer to search for predefined indicia of nonvolatile installation of respective of the different software products without regard for whether or not the installed software is currently executing on the computer; ~~and~~

a calculating unit calculating a difference between the number of software licenses owned by the organization and a number of software licenses actually installed, which is calculated on the basis of the collected inventory information, and outputting information representing an excess or insufficiency in the number of software licenses or information regarding purchase of additional software licenses<u>; and</u>

<u>a generating unit generating a software dictionary which includes the predefined indicia of nonvolatile installation of respective of the different software products, and which identifies software products ;</u>

<u>wherein the inventory information is generated by using the generated software dictionary which is distributed to each of the plurality of computers in the organization from which the inventory information is collected;</u>

<u>in a case that the sum of the software-license usage numbers of all sections of the organization exceeds the software-license holding number, in response to such a determination automatically generating a purchase transaction for purchasing software licenses based on a difference between the sum and the software-license holding number;</u>

<u>adding a number of purchased software licenses to the software-license holding number;</u>

and

distributing a purchase expense to a section whose software-license usage number is greater than the corresponding software-license right number, and updating the software-license right number of the section.

2.   **(CANCELED)**

3.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus for managing software licenses of different software products, the apparatus comprising:

a storage storing a number of software licenses for the different software products, owned by an entire organization and storing a number of software licenses allotted to sections of the organization;

a collecting unit collecting inventory information from each of a plurality of computers within the organization, inventory information of a computer comprising an inventory regarding software actually installed nonvolatiley in the computer, where the inventory information of each computer is generated by scanning the computer to search for predefined indicia of nonvolatile installation of respective of the different software products without regard for whether or not the installed software is currently executing on the computer; ~~and~~

a calculating unit calculating a difference between the number of software licenses allotted to each of the sections of the organization and a number of corresponding software licenses actually installed on the computers of the section which is calculated on the basis of the collected inventory information and for outputting warning information in a case that the number of software licenses in actual use is greater than the number of allotted software licenses; and

a generating unit generating a software dictionary which includes the predefined indicia of nonvolatile installation of respective of the different software products, and which identifies software products;

wherein the inventory information is generated by using the generated software dictionary which is distributed to each of the plurality of computers in the organization from which the inventory information is collected;

in a case that the sum of the software-license usage numbers of all sections of the organization exceeds the software-license holding number, in response to such a determination automatically generating a purchase transaction for purchasing software licenses based on a difference between the sum and the software-license holding number;

adding a number of purchased software licenses to the software-license holding number; and

distributing a purchase expense to a section whose software-license usage number is greater than the corresponding software-license right number, and updating the software-license right number of the section.

4.   **(CANCELED)**

5.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus for managing software licenses of different software products, the apparatus comprising:

a managing unit managing a number of software licenses, for the different software products, owned by an entire organization and managing a number of software licenses allotted to sections of the organization;

a collecting unit collecting inventory information from each of a plurality of computers within the organization, inventory information a computer comprising an inventory regarding software actually installed nonvolatiley in the computer, where the inventory information of each computer is generated by scanning the computer to search for predefined indicia of nonvolatile installation of respective of the different software products without regard for whether or not the installed software is currently executing on the computer; and

a calculating unit calculating a difference between the number of software licenses allotted to each of the sections of the organization and a number of corresponding software licenses actually installed on the computers of the section which is calculated on the basis of the collected inventory information and for outputting warning information which indicates that the section is allotted an excess number of software licenses compared with the number of software licenses in actual use; and

a generating unit generating a software dictionary which includes the predefined indicia of nonvolatile installation of respective of the different software products, and which identifies software products;

wherein the inventory information is generated by using the generated software dictionary which is distributed to each of the plurality of computers in the organization from which the inventory information is collected;

in a case that the sum of the software-license usage numbers of all sections of the organization exceeds the software-license holding number, in response to such a determination automatically generating a purchase transaction for purchasing software licenses based on a

difference between the sum and the software-license holding number;

      adding a number of purchased software licenses to the software-license holding number; and

      distributing a purchase expense to a section whose software-license usage number is greater than the corresponding software-license right number, and updating the software-license right number of the section.

      6.   **(CANCELED)**

      7.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus for managing software licenses of different software products, the apparatus comprising:

      a managing unit managing a number of software licenses, for the different software products, owned by an organization;

      a receiving unit receiving, from a higher-level server, an organization-wide policy which is information regarding a logic for collection of a usage number of software licenses;

      a generating unit generating, on the basis of the organization-wide policy, a software dictionary for identification of software and a license policy used for determination of presence of a license;

      a distributing unit distributing the software dictionary, over a network, to each of a plurality of computers within the organization in order to collect inventory information from each of the computers, the inventory information of a computer comprising an inventory regarding software actually installed nonvolatiley in the computer, where the inventory information of each computer is generated by scanning the computer to search for predefined indicia of nonvolatile installation of respective of the different software products without regard for whether or not the installed software is currently executing; ~~and~~

      a reporting unit reporting to the higher-level server a usage number of software licenses calculated on the basis of the collected inventory information and the license policy; and

      a generating unit generating a software dictionary which includes the predefined indicia of nonvolatile installation of respective of the different software products, and which identifies software products ;

      wherein the inventory information is generated by using the generated software dictionary which is distributed to each of the plurality of computers in the organization from which the inventory information is collected;

      in a case that the sum of the software-license usage numbers of all sections of the

organization exceeds the software-license holding number, in response to such a determination automatically generating a purchase transaction for purchasing software licenses based on a difference between the sum and the software-license holding number;

adding a number of purchased software licenses to the software-license holding number; and

distributing a purchase expense to a section whose software-license usage number is greater than the corresponding software-license right number, and updating the software-license right number of the section.

8.   (Currently Amended) A method for managing software licenses of different software products, the apparatus comprising:

managing a software-license holding number which represents a number of software licenses, for the different software products, owned by an organization, and managing, for sections of the organization, a software-license right number which represents a number of software licenses permitted to be used and a software-license usage number which represents a number of software licenses in actual use;

collecting, over a network, inventory information of a plurality of computers within the organization, the inventory information of a computer comprising an inventory regarding software actually installed nonvolatiley in the computers, where the inventory information is generated by scanning the computer to search for predefined indicia of nonvolatile installation of respective of the different software products without regard for whether or not the installed software is currently executing on the computer, and updating the software-license usage number of each of the sections of the organization;

in a case that the sum of the software-license usage numbers of all sections of the organization exceeds the software-license holding number, in response to such a determination automatically generating a purchase transaction for purchasing software licenses based on a difference between the sum and the software-license holding number;

adding a number of purchased software licenses to the software-license holding number; ~~and~~

distributing a purchase expense to a section whose software-license usage number is greater than the corresponding software-license right number, and updating the software-license right number of the section; and

generating a software dictionary which includes the predefined indicia of nonvolatile installation of respective of the different software products, and which identifies software

products; and

wherein the inventory information is generated by using the generated software dictionary which is distributed to each of the plurality of computers in the organization from which the inventory information is collected.

9.   (Currently Amended) A method for managing software licenses of different software products, the apparatus comprising:

managing a software-license holding number which represents a number of software licenses, for the different software products, owned by an organization, and managing, for sections of the organization, a software-license right number which represents a number of software licenses permitted to be used and a software-license usage number which represents a number of software licenses in actual use;

collecting, over a network, inventory information of a plurality of computers within the organization, the inventory information of a computer comprising an inventory regarding software actually installed nonvolatiley in the computers, where the inventory information of each computer is generated by scanning the computer to search for predefined indicia of nonvolatile installation of respective of the different software products without regard for whether or not the installed software is currently executing on the computer, and updating the software-license usage number of each of the sections of the organization;

in a case that the software-license holding number is greater than the sum of the software-license usage numbers of all sections of the organization, managing, as a software-license nonuse number, a difference between the software-license holding number and the sum; ~~and~~

in a case that a necessity of purchasing software licenses arises and that a number of software licenses to be purchased in response to purchase requests from at least one section of the organization is grater than the software-license nonuse number, obtaining an actual number of software licenses to be purchased as the deference between them:

generating a software dictionary which includes the predefined indicia of nonvolatile installation of respective of the different software products, and which identifies software products;

wherein the inventory information is generated by using the generated software dictionary which is distributed to each of the plurality of computers in the organization from which the inventory information is collected;

in a case that the sum of the software-license usage numbers of all sections of the

organization exceeds the software-license holding number, in response to such a determination automatically generating a purchase transaction for purchasing software licenses based on a difference between the sum and the software-license holding number;

adding a number of purchased software licenses to the software-license holding number; and

distributing a purchase expense to a section whose software-license usage number is greater than the corresponding software-license right number, and updating the software-license right number of the section.

10.   (Currently Amended) A storage medium storing a program for managing software licenses by use of a computer, the program causing the computer to perform processing comprising:

a managing unit managing a number of software licenses, for the different software products, owned by an organization;

a collecting unit collecting inventory information from each of a plurality of computers within the organization, inventory information of a computer comprising an inventory regarding software actually installed nonvolatiley in the corresponding computer, where the inventory information of each computer is generated by scanning the computer to search for predefined indicia of nonvolatile installation of respective of the different software products without regard for whether or not the installed software is currently executing; and

a calculating unit calculating a difference between the number of software licenses owned by the organization and a number of software licenses actually installed, which is calculated on the basis of the collected inventory information and outputting information representing an excess or insufficiency in the number of software licenses or information regarding purchase of additional software licenses, wherein:

the program causing the computer to perform processing further comprising generating a software dictionary which includes the predefined indicia of nonvolatile installation of respective of the different software products, and which identifies software products;

the generated software dictionary is distributed to the plurality of computers in the organization from which the inventory information is collected;

the inventory information is collected by the collecting of the inventory information;

in a case that the sum of the software-license usage numbers of all sections of the organization exceeds the software-license holding number, in response to such a determination automatically generating a purchase transaction for purchasing software licenses based on a

difference between the sum and the software-license holding number;

adding a number of purchased software licenses to the software-license holding number; and

distributing a purchase expense to a section whose software-license usage number is greater than the corresponding software-license right number, and updating the software-license right number of the section.

11.   **(CANCELED)**

12.   (Currently Amended) A storage medium storing a program for managing software licenses by use of a computer, the program causing the computer to perform processing comprising:

managing a number of software licenses owned by an organization and a number of software licenses allotted to sections of the organization;

collecting inventory information from each of a plurality of computers within the organization, the inventory information including information regarding software actually installed nonvolatiley in the computers, where the inventory information is collected by scanning the computer to search for predefined indicia of nonvolatile installation of respective of the different software products without regard for whether or not the installed software is currently executing; and

calculating a difference between the number of software licenses allotted to each of the sections of the organization and a number of software licenses actually used in the section which is calculated on the basis of the collected inventory information and for outputting warning information in a case that the number of allotted software licenses is greater than the number of software licenses in actual use or in a case that the section is allotted an excess number of software licenses compared with the number of software licenses in actual use, wherein:

the program causing the computer to perform processing further comprising generating a software dictionary which identifies software during collection of the inventory information;

the generated software dictionary is distributed to the plurality of computers in the organization from which the inventory information is collected; and

the inventory information is collected by the means for collecting the inventory information;

in a case that the sum of the software-license usage numbers of all sections of the organization exceeds the software-license holding number, in response to such a determination

automatically generating a purchase transaction for purchasing software licenses based on a difference between the sum and the software-license holding number;

adding a number of purchased software licenses to the software-license holding number; and

distributing a purchase expense to a section whose software-license usage number is greater than the corresponding software-license right number, and updating the software-license right number of the section.

13.   **(CANCELED)**

14.   (Currently Amended) A storage medium storing a program for managing software licenses by use of a computer, the program causing the computer to perform processing comprising:

managing a number of software licenses owned by an organization;

receiving from a higher-level server an organization-wide policy which is information regarding a logic for collection of a usage number of software licenses;

generating, on the basis of the organization-wide policy, a software dictionary for identification of software and a license policy used for determination of presence of a license;

distributing the software dictionary to each of a plurality of computers within the organization in order to collect inventory information from each of the computers, the inventory information including information regarding software actually installed nonvolatiley in the computers, where the inventory information is collected by scanning the computer to search for predefined indicia of nonvolatile installation of respective of different software products without regard for whether or not the installed software is currently executing; ~~and~~

reporting to the higher-level server a usage number of software licenses calculated on the basis of the collected inventory information and the license policy; and

generating a software dictionary which includes the predefined indicia of nonvolatile installation of respective of the different software products, and which identifies software products ;

wherein the inventory information is generated by using the generated software dictionary which is distributed to each of the plurality of computers in the organization from which the inventory information is collected;

in a case that the sum of the software-license usage numbers of all sections of the organization exceeds the software-license holding number, in response to such a determination

automatically generating a purchase transaction for purchasing software licenses based on a difference between the sum and the software-license holding number;

adding a number of purchased software licenses to the software-license holding number; and

distributing a purchase expense to a section whose software-license usage number is greater than the corresponding software-license right number, and updating the software-license right number of the section.

15. (Currently Amended) A storage medium storing a program for managing software licenses by use of a computer, the program causing the computer to perform processing comprising:

managing a software-license holding number which represents a number of software licenses owned by an organization, and managing, for sections of the organization, a software-license right number which represents a number of software licenses permitted to be used and a software-license usage number which represents a number of software licenses in actual use;

collecting inventory information from each of a plurality of computers within the organization, the inventory information including information regarding software actually installed nonvolatiley in the computers, where the inventory information is collected by scanning the computer to search for predefined indicia of nonvolatile installation of respective of different software products without regard for whether or not the installed software is currently executing, and updating the software-license usage number of each of the sections of the organization;

in a case that the sum of the software-license usage numbers of all sections of the organization exceeds the software-license holding number, in response to such a determination automatically generating a purchase transaction for purchasing software licenses based on a difference between the sum and the software-license holding number;

~~and~~ adding a number of purchased software licenses to the software-license holding number;

distributing a purchase expense to a section whose software-license usage number is greater than the corresponding software-license purchase number, and updating the software-license right number of the section;

a generating unit generating a software dictionary which includes the predefined indicia of nonvolatile installation of respective of the different software products, and which identifies software products ;

wherein the inventory information is generated by using the generated software

dictionary which is distributed to each of the plurality of computers in the organization from which the inventory information is collected;

in a case that the sum of the software-license usage numbers of all sections of the organization exceeds the software-license holding number, in response to such a determination automatically generating a purchase transaction for purchasing software licenses based on a difference between the sum and the software-license holding number;

adding a number of purchased software licenses to the software-license holding number; and

distributing a purchase expense to a section whose software-license usage number is greater than the corresponding software-license right number, and updating the software-license right number of the section.

16-27. (canceled)